

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Annie M. Sullivan, April 28, 1893, with transcript

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Helen Keller, drawer 25 Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter from ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL to Miss Anna Sullivan (Mrs. Macy) concerning the proposed visit referred to in the letter to Mrs. Pratt. April 28, 1893. Dear Miss Sullivan:

My Private Secretary, Mr. McCurdy, has been absent in Chicago on Association business, and my time has been so occupied on account of the meeting of the National Academy of Science that I have been unable to write and thank Helen for the very beautiful poem she sent me. It has not yet been read before the Literary Society, because the meeting was postponed until May 6.

Helen's effort compares most favorably with the juvenile production of our great poets, and indeed surpasses most of them in maturity of thought and beauty of expression. What may we not expect from her in the future?

It has now been definitely decided that the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf will establish head-quarters in Chicago at the Chicago University from July 14 to July 28, and I write now to extend to you and Helen on behalf of the Association a cordial invitation to visit Chicago at that time as the guest of the Association. The Association will expect to pay the travelling and board expenses of Helen and yourself. An early reply will much oblige as we have to procure accommodation for our members and guests at once. I write Captain Fellar upon the subject.

By the way if you have any friends who desire to visit the World's Fair at that time they might find it to their advantage to become members of the Association (for \$2.00) in order to obtain the rates we offer to members. If you care to send us any names I will see what

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they 2 are elected members of our Association and our Secretary, Mr. will forward full information concerning rooms, rates, railroad fares, etc.

Capt. Keller has written to ask my influence in obtaining a position in the Geological Survey for his son Simpson. Now it so happens that Major Powell is one of the dearest friends I have in Washington, and it is therefore possible that I may be of assistant in this matter. Before I speak to him on the subject I think it would be well to interest him in Helen, and I hope therefore that you and Helen will be able to pay us a visit very soon.

Mrs. Bell and I will be at the Gilsey House, New York tomorrow and Sunday. Couldn't you and Helen join us there and come on to Washington.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell.